

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining the severity of a rheumatoid an arthritis condition in a mammal, said method comprising determining whether or not a sample from said mammal contains at least one marker, said marker being an elevated level of a CD21L polypeptide, an elevated level of a lymphotoxin- α polypeptide, an elevated level of a lymphotoxin- β polypeptide, an elevated level of an SLC polypeptide, an elevated level of a DC-CK 1 polypeptide, an elevated level of an MCP-1 polypeptide, or an elevated level of a BLC chemoattractant polypeptide, wherein the presence of said at least one marker indicates that said rheumatoid arthritis condition is severe, and wherein said sample comprises synovial tissue or synovial fluid.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said mammal is a human.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said sample is a synovial fluid tissue sample.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said sample is a synovial tissue sample.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one marker is said elevated level of a CD21L polypeptide.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one marker is said elevated level of a lymphotoxin- β polypeptide.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one marker is said elevated level of a BLC chemoattractant polypeptide.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 8, wherein said at least one marker is said elevated level of a lymphotoxin- α polypeptide ~~chemoattractant~~ is a B lymphocyte ~~chemoattractant polypeptide~~.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said method comprises determining whether or not said sample contains at least two of said markers.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said method comprises determining whether or not said sample contains at least three of said markers.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said method comprises determining whether or not said sample contains at least four of said markers.
13. (Currently Amended) A method of assisting a person in determining the severity of ~~an~~ a rheumatoid arthritis condition in a mammal, wherein said method comprises:
 - a) determining whether or not a sample from said mammal contains at least one marker, said marker being an elevated level of a CD21L polypeptide, an elevated level of a lymphotoxin- α polypeptide, an elevated level of a lymphotoxin- β polypeptide, an elevated level of an SLC polypeptide, an elevated level of a DC-CK 1 polypeptide, an elevated level of an MCP-1 polypeptide, or an elevated level of a BLC chemoattractant polypeptide, wherein said sample comprises synovial tissue or synovial fluid, and

b) communicating information about the presence or absence of said at least one marker in said sample to said person, wherein the presence of said at least one marker indicates that said rheumatoid arthritis condition is severe.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said person is a medical or research professional.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said person is selected from the group consisting of a doctor, a nurse practitioner, a research scientist, and a research technician.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said mammal is a human.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said mammal is a rodent.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said sample is a synovial fluid ~~tissue~~ sample.

20. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said sample is a synovial tissue sample.

21. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said at least one marker is said elevated level of a CD21L polypeptide.

22. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said at least one marker is said elevated level of a lymphotoxin- β polypeptide.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said at least one marker is said elevated level of a BLC ~~chemoattractant~~ polypeptide.
24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 ~~23~~, wherein said at least one marker is said elevated level of a lymphotoxin- α polypeptide ~~chemoattractant polypeptide is a B-lymphocyte chemoattractant polypeptide~~.
25. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said communication comprises sending said information directly to said person.
26. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said communication comprises sending said information indirectly to said person.
27. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said communication comprises making said information electronically available to said person.
28. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said method comprises determining whether or not said sample contains at least two of said markers.
29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein said method comprises communicating information about the presence or absence of said at least two markers in said sample to said person.
30. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said method comprises determining whether or not said sample contains at least three of said markers.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein said method comprises communicating information about the presence or absence of said at least three markers in said sample to said person.

32. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said method comprises determining whether or not said sample contains at least four of said markers.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein said method comprises communicating information about the presence or absence of said at least four markers in said sample to said person.

34-35. (Cancelled)

36. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one marker is said elevated level of an SLC polypeptide.

37. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one marker is said elevated level of a DC-CK 1 polypeptide.

38. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one marker is said elevated level of an MCP-1 polypeptide.

39. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one marker is said elevated level of an SLC polypeptide.

40. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one marker is said elevated level of a DC-CK 1 polypeptide.

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41. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one marker is said elevated level of an MCP-1 polypeptide.